

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering, Borough Manager Rich Sichler, Police Chief Stephen Powell, and Public Works Director Dean Murray.

Visitors: None

Mr. Sichler called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Handicapped Parking:

Chief Powell said he currently has one new handicapped parking space request and about 12 renewal requests. He will be taking them to Council for approval, but the Committee discussed the possibility of changing the ordinance, as was discussed in 2013. The proposed change would allocate handicapped parking spaces at every intersection in the Borough that would not be activated until a resident requested it. Any such requests would still have to meet the current protocol which is a maximum of two spaces per block that must be located at opposing corners.

The next step will be to map the Borough indicating the current location of handicapped spaces and the proposed locations of all new spaces.

Lighting for Dumpsters:

It was discussed previously that when dumpster permits are obtained, they are required to have hazard lighting on or near them. This has been accomplished with barricades, however it has been noted that it is difficult to find the appropriate flashing lights. There are some lights at the Borough Garage but they have not been used in a long time and would certainly need new batteries.

It was suggested that the Borough purchase some collapsible barricades that could accommodate the flashing lights and provide them to anyone who obtains a dumpster permit once they have given a deposit.

Street Sweeping Streets:

Mr. Murray stated that the permanent posting of certain streets in the Borough for street sweeping has been a huge success on many levels. He proposed that new streets be added to the street sweeping schedule, as follows:

Each 1st and 3rd Wednesday, from 8:00 a.m. to noon –
 Sunset Road – from S. 2nd to Museum Road
 7th Avenue – from Reading Avenue to Spruce Street
 Olive Street – from Elm Street to Reading Avenue

He noted that once the Ordinance is in place, residents living on those streets will receive written notification as to when it will go into effect and when the warning period will end.

Moved by Mayor Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Murray to recommend to Council that Sunset Road, 7th Avenue (from Reading Avenue to Spruce Street) and Olive Street be added to the street sweeping program. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

PennDOT:

Mr. Murray said that he had received a letter from PennDOT concerning the collection of traffic data that will be completed in the Borough at some point between March and June of 2014. It was determined that no special notification needs to be made to residents as they should not be directly impacted.

It was also noted that Chief Powell, Mayor Rodriguez and Mr. Sichler had attended a meeting with PennDOT representatives concerning the upcoming Buttonwood Bridge closure. Currently the vehicle count for the bridge is 600 vehicles per hour and when it is closed, traffic will be redirected and the Penn Street Bridge and Penn Avenue will become part of the official detour route. The impact to West Reading will be substantial, with many changes becoming necessary as a result:

- left turns will be prohibited on westbound Penn Avenue at 3rd and 4th Avenues
- detour signs will be installed
- pavement markings for lane changes will be made
- traffic lights will be re-timed
- parking spaces at certain corners may need to be temporarily removed to facilitate turning of large trucks

It was noted that PennDOT will be responsible for the changes.

Permit Parking:

In light of comments made by residents at the last Council meeting, the Committee discussed some of the problems that exist with permit parking, such as people who no longer live in the Borough still using their parking permit to park near the Hospital. After some discussion, it was decided that a review should be done of existing parking permit holders to weed out those who no longer live in the Borough and to upgrade existing users to the new stickers. Administrative personnel will collaborate to determine how best to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant